

7 Silver Lake

Take Rt. 73 east to Forest Dale. Turn left onto Rt. 53. Proceed 5.5 miles to a large parking lot on the right. Take the Falls of Lana/Silver Lake trail, which ends at Silver Lake after 1.6 miles. View from the north end near the dam at the beach area. The Rocky Point Trail can be accessed here, which circumnavigates the lake.

Birds: Thrushes, grosbeaks, warblers, and loons during breeding season.



A mother loon swims with her chicks on Lake Dunmore

Sue Wetmore

8 Moosalamoo Region

This National Recreation Area has a number of trails that offer a variety of birds. For an easy walk, try the Moosalamoo Campground in Goshen. Take Rt. 73 east into the Green Mountains. Turn left on Forest Rd. 32. After about 10 miles on this unpaved road you will see the entrance of the campground, on the left. Proceed to parking area on right just before campground entrance. No fee for parking. Obtain a Moosalamoo map at the Brandon Visitors Center for many more trails in this nearly 16,000-acre treasure!

Birds: Thrushes, vireos, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, woodpeckers, flycatchers.

9 Pomainville Wildlife Management Area

This site is a combination of weedy grassland and floodplain/river basin. Take Rt. 7 south for approx. 5 miles and, coming down hill, turn right into the parking area. Follow the trail to the berm and, depending on time of year, access the pond to the west. Otherwise continue to the left and follow the trail to the next pond. Watch for waterfowl and other species in the trees along the way.

Birds: Sparrows, bobolinks, gnatcatchers, orioles, grosbeaks, woodpeckers. Late fall can have Nelson's Sparrow, a bird of tall grasses; with persistence you may find it.

RESOURCES:

Birdwatching in Vermont. Ted Murin and Bryan Pfeiffer. 2002. Paperback. For the novice and expert birder alike, this guide reveals where, when, and how to enjoy birds in Vermont. Has detailed descriptions and maps to more than 120 Vermont birdwatching areas, and informative accounts of the 296 bird species regularly seen in Vermont. Available at the Book & Leaf Bookstore in Brandon.

Vermont Birds: A Folding Pocket Guide to Familiar Species (Pocket Naturalist Guide Series). James Kavanagh. 2003. Laminated, lightweight pocket guide highlighting over 140 species and an eco-region map featuring prominent bird viewing areas around the state.

Useful websites:

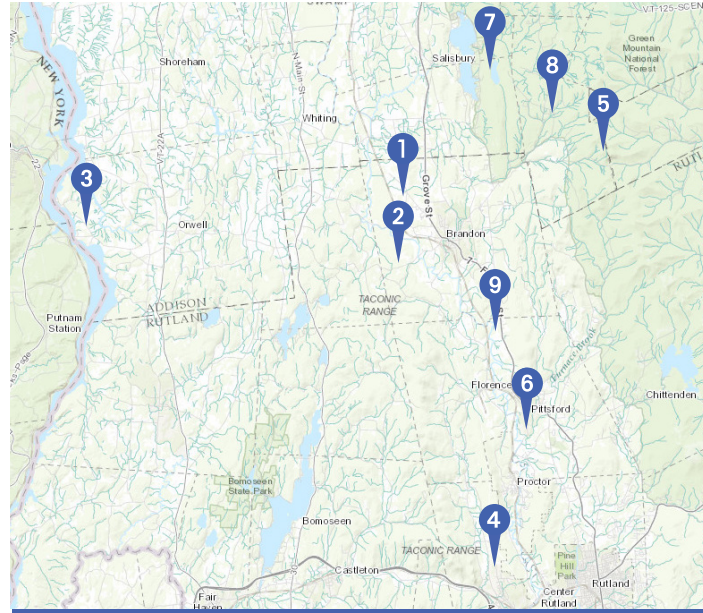
Rutlandcountyaudubon.org

ebird.org/content/vt

Vtecostudies.org (for bird lists and hotspots)

Trails.pittsfordvermont.com (for Cadwell and other trails)

Explore more at www.GatewaysToBrandon.com



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BRANDON'S Gateways to ADVENTURE BIRDING



BIRDING BRANDON AND BEYOND BRANDON, VERMONT



BRANDON'S Gateways to ADVENTURE BIRDING



BIRDING IN AND AROUND BRANDON

Vermont hosts some 350 bird species that either breed here, migrate through, or turn up as accidentals. Vermont's diverse habitats—from high mountain spruce-fir forests and treeless balds, to mixed hardwood forests, to the Champlain and Connecticut River Valleys with diverse agricultural, wetland, and forested habitats—afford the birder a variety of species to discover. Brandon is fortunate in that some of these habitats exist within the town-wide area, while others are a short distance away. From the **Hermit Thrush**—our state bird—to a variety of other species, Brandon can give the keen birder some 60 species on a spring morning. Further afield, one of the rarest North American birds—the **Bicknell's Thrush**—calls Vermont their summer home. They are found on several high peaks in the Green Mountains. From hawks to hummingbirds, bluebirds to buntings, the nine suggested locations herein should offer beginning to expert birders a morning of pure avian delight!



Sue Wetmore

RECOMMENDED BIRDING SPOTS:

When not on public lands, please be sure to respect private property. Also, always park in safe locations, well off the road.

1 Hollow Road

Take Rt. 73 west out of Brandon, turn right onto Hollow Road just before the RR overpass. Park at pulloffs along the road; do not block any field entrances.

Birds: Expect to find warblers, vireos, tanagers, sparrows, towhees, and thrushes.

2 Long/Short Swamp Roads

Take Pearl St. to a covered bridge (approx. 1.5 miles). Park at pullouts (on the right or left) and walk back to a small wetland. Continue to walk through the bridge; Long and Short Swamp Roads will be ahead. Walk along Short Swamp Road until a steep hill and return via the same route.

Birds: Northern Waterthrush, other warblers, Veery, Barred Owl. An evening visit may have Snipe, Woodcocks, and Whippoorwills.

3 Mount Independence

Take Rt. 73 west to Orwell, cross 22A and proceed to Mt. Independence Historic Site/State Park. There is a park entry fee of \$5.00. Hike the various trails of the Revolutionary War historic site.

Birds: Good for spring and fall migration: warblers, tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, woodpeckers, Grouse, waterfowl, Bald Eagle.



Sue Wetmore

West Rutland Marsh: If you listen carefully, you may hear the Least Bittern (photo to the left). This is one of the few places in Vermont the Least Bittern can be found reliably in season.

4 West Rutland Marsh

Take Rt. 7 south to Pittsford; bear right on Rt. 3 to Proctor. Continue to Rt. 4 intersection and turn right at the light. Continue west to West Rutland. Turn right on Marble St. In about 1.2 miles you will pass Water St.; a boardwalk is just beyond, on the left. Park there and bird the marsh from the boardwalk and road.

Birds: A variety of marsh birds including the Virginia Rail, Least and American Bitterns, vireos, thrushes, and sparrows.

5 The Long Trail

Take Rt. 73 east from Brandon, up the west slope of the Green Mountains to Brandon Gap. Park in the lot on the right at the top of the gap. Hike south on the Long Trail (trail entrance shortly to the right as you leave the parking lot). Return via same route.

Birds: Warblers, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, vireos, sparrows. Upon returning from the trail, continue east on Rt. 73 for about ¼ mile to the pulloff on the left. Scan the Great Cliff for Peregrine Falcons.



American Kestrel

Sue Wetmore

6 Cadwell Trail, Pittsford

Take Rt. 7 south to Pittsford (~8 miles). As you approach the sharp left at Kamuda's Country Store, bear straight onto Elm St. Continue approx. 2 miles to Cooley covered bridge and park there. The Cadwell Trail does a 2.4 mile loop from this point, through fields and meadows, partly along Furnace Brook and Otter Creek.

Birds: Woodpeckers, warblers, thrushes, sparrows, Indigo Bunting.



Indigo Bunting